



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Conasauga Ranger District

3941 Highway 76
Chatsworth, GA 30705
(706) 695-6736

File Code: 1900

Date: October 30, 2009

Horse Trail Assessment Update Conasauga Ranger District

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Conasauga Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests is conducting an analysis of the equestrian trails to determine if the current system of horse trails is adequate to meet public demand.

Last May, we held two public meetings to discuss whether or not the current trail network is adequate, and to identify opportunities to potentially improve the trail network. We had a tremendous turnout and the information that was provided has been guiding the analysis.

We have finished our review of the public input and found that many of the participants have the same ideas on where and how to improve the trail system. This has allowed us to focus on specific geographical areas across the District. We are referring to these areas as "Opportunity Areas."

We are now conducting a more specific assessment on each Opportunity Area. We are considering such things as capacity for use of the existing trail systems, current and needed trail facilities, opportunities for expanding and enhancing the trail system, and Forest Plan direction. We are also looking at the existing resources conditions in the area.

The specific assessments on each Opportunity Area will allow me to make a decision on what area or areas to further focus our efforts. The results of this assessment will be published on our website and made available in hard copy.

I want to again thank everyone who participated in the public meetings. Your thoughts and opinions have been a tremendous help in guiding this process. Please visit the Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/conf for additional information on horses across the Forest.

Thank you for your interest in enhancing the horse trails on the Conasauga Ranger District and helping to protect resources by appropriate use of horses on the National Forest. If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please don't hesitate to call me at 706-695-6736 or e-mail me at mhjones@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michele H. Jones
MICHELE H. JONES
District Ranger

